

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 JAKART 01005 01 OF 02 231021Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /065 W
-----106646 231025Z /15

R 230926Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6330
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMCONSUL MEDAN
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMCONSUL SURABAYA
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 JAKARTA 1005

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAG: PINT, EGEN, SOCI, ID
SUBJECT: OPSTIB STARTS UP AGAIN

REF: (A) JAKARTA 14962; (B) HONG KONG 0817

1. SUMMARY: THE INDONESIAN GOVERNMENT'S ANTI-CORRUPTION CAMPAIGN OPSTIB EMERGED FROM ITS SEMI-OBSCURITY OF RECENT WEEKS WITH STATEMENTS BY SENIOR OFFICIALS IN LATE DECEMBER AND MID-JANUARY ANNOUNCING THE RESULTS OF INVESTIGATIONS IN THE LAST QUARTER OF THE YEAR AND A NEW SERIES OF CASES INVOLVING HIGHER LEVEL ADMINISTRATORS. AFTER INVESTIGATING 745 CASES OF CORRUPTION INVOLVING 1396 INDIVIDUALS DURING THE QUARTER, OPSTIB HAS PLACED SPOTLIGHT ON BIGGER FISH IN
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PAGE 02 JAKART 01005 01 OF 02 231021Z

1978 INCLUDING THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF POST AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS, THE MAYORS OF BUKITTINGGI AND MEDAN, SEVERAL REGENCY CHIEFS, AND A FORMER DEPUTY CHIEF OF THE NATIONAL POLICE. THE CAMPAIGN AGAINST SENIOR OFFICIALS COMES IN RESPONSE TO PUBLIC CRITICISM OF GOI FAILURE TO CLEAN HOUSE AT THE TOP AND MAY BE TIMED TO THE UPCOMING PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION. THE VILLAGE LEVEL IS NOT BEING NEGLECTED EITHER,

WITH LOCAL OPSTIB CAMPAIGNS CONTINUING IN MANY REGIONS.
END SUMMARY.

2. AFTER A MARKED SLOWDOWN DURING NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER IN THE HITHERTO RAPID PACE OF REVELATIONS OF CORRUPT PRACTICES, THE GOI ANTI-CORRUPTION CAMPAIGN OPERATION ORDER (OPSTIB) RETURNED TO THE HEADLINES AS THE YEAR ENDED WITH ANNOUNCEMENTS OF MAJOR INVESTIGATIONS AIMED AT HIGHER LEVELS OF INDONESIAN OFFICIALDOM.

A) ON DECEMBER 25 NATIONAL POLICE CHIEF GEN. WIDODO BUDIARDMO BROUGHT INTO THE OPEN A RUMORED SCANDAL IN THE TOP ECHELONS OF HIS DEPARTMENT BY ANNOUNCING THAT DRASTIC MEASURES WERE TO BE TAKEN AGAINST POLICE OFFICERS GUILTY OF EMBEZZLEMENT OF RP. 6 BILLION IN POLICE FUNDS.

B) THREE DAYS LATER KOPKAMTIB CHIEF OF STAFF ADMIRAL SUDOMO, THE DIRECTOR OF OPSTIB, TOLD THE PRESS THAT HE WAS LOOKING INTO ALLEGATIONS OF MULTI-BILLION-RUPIAH CORRUPTION IN THE DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF POST AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS. HE ANNOUNCED THAT THE PERSONAL TAXES EXAMINATION INSTITUTE WOULD DIRECTLY EXAMINE DIRECTOR GENERAL SUHARDJONO, WHO, ACCORDING TO ONE NEWSPAPER STORY, OWNS THE LARGEST RANCH IN INDONESIA.

3. IN MID-JANUARY OPSTIB OFFICIALS REVEALED THAT THEIR CAMPAIGN HAD BEEN QUIETLY ROLLING RIGHT ALONG DURING THE FINAL QUARTER OF 1977 AND HAD INVESTIGATED 745 CASES OF CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 JAKART 01005 01 OF 02 231021Z

CORRUPTION INVOLVING 1396 INDIVIDUALS. ACCORDING TO MINISTER FOR ADMINISTRATIVE REFORM SUMARLIN, 1146 PERSONS WERE SUBJECT TO ADMINISTRATIVE DISCIPLINARY MEASURES AND 192 WERE BROUGHT TO TRIAL. AFTER HE AND ADMIRAL SUDOMO REPORTED TO PRESIDENT SUHARTO JAN. 14 ON OPSTIB OPERATIONS, SUMARLIN TOLD REPORTERS THAT IN DECEMBER OPSTIB HAD INVESTIGATED CASES INCLUDING ILLEGAL LEVIES IN THE COLLECTION OF SLAUGHTER TAXES AT PADANG PARIAMAN, THE DISCIPLINING OF 13 DISTRICT CHIEFS OF EAST NUSATENGARA, WEST KALIMANTAN AND EAST HAVA, LAND-VACATION COMPENSATIONS INVOLVING TWO SENIOR PUBLIC SERVANTS IN ASAHAN, NORTH SUMATRA, ILLEGAL LEVIES BY THE REGENCY CHIEFS OF KETAPANG, WEST KALIMANTAN, FERTILIZER PURCHASES IN EAST JAVA BY THE STATE PLANTATION ENTERPRISE, THE BUILDING OF A HIGH SCHOOL IN BENGKULU USING A FAULTY DESIGN, AND THE PARING DOWN OF SALARIES OF RELIGIOUS TEACHERS IN MALUKU.

4. PUBLIC RESPONSE TO OPSTIB CONTINUED TO BE GOOD, SAID SUMARLIN, NOTING THAT THE LARGE NUMBER OF CASES DEALT WITH WAS PROOF OF THE VALUABLE ASSISTANCE GIVEN BY THE PUBLIC, THE BASIC SOURCE OF INFORMATION FOR OPSTIB, AS WELL AS CONFIRMING THE GOI'S DETERMINATION TO CARRY THROUGH THE

CLEAN-UP OPERATION. ADMIRAL SUDOMO TOLD THE SAME GATHERING OF REPORTERS THAT OPSTIB HAD RECEIVED 7500 LETTERS FROM THE PUBLIC DURING THE LAST SIX MONTHS, AND 4461 OF THEM HAD BEEN MADE THE BASIS FOR OFFICIAL ACTION.

5. SUDOMO THEN REVEALED THAT LT. GEN. SISWADJI, FORMER DEPUTY POLICE CHIEF AND FORMER RECTOR OF TRISAKJI UNIVERSITY, HAD BEEN PLACED UNDER HOUSE ARREST IN CONNECTION WITH OPSTIB'S INVESTIGATION OF THE POLICE EMBEZZLEMENT CASE MENTIONED BY GENERAL WIDODO. HE SAID FOUR CONTRACTORS HAD ALSO BEEN ARRESTED IN THIS CASE AND ANOTHER WAS BEING SOUGHT. TURNING TO THE CASE OF CORRUPTION CHARGES AGAINST THE MAYOR OF BUKITTINGGI, WEST SUMATRA, SUDOMO SAID THAT THE MAYOR HAD BEEN OFFICIALLY RECALLED TO THE DEPARTMENT
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 JAKART 01005 01 OF 02 231021Z

OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS, BUT WOULD STAY ON IN BUKITTINGGI FOR THE TIME BEING.

6. SUDOMO AND SUMARLIN MET WITH MINISTER OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS AMIRMACHMUD JANUARY 19 AND LATER ANNOUNCED THAT OPSTIB WAS INVESTIGATING THREE MAYORS AND NINE REGENCY CHIEFS SUSPECTED OF GRAFT AND MALPRACTICES OR CONSIDERED TO HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO CARRY OUT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS IN THEIR RESPECTIVE AREAS. INTERNAL AFFAIRS SOURCES SAID IT HAD ALREADY BEEN DECIDED TO TAKE ACTION AGAINST THREE OF THEM: THE MAYORS OF BUKITTINGGI AND MEDAN AND THE REGENCY CHIEF OF DELI-SERDANG.

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PAGE 01 JAKART 01005 02 OF 02 231026Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /065 W
-----106672 231028Z /15

R 230926Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6331
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

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AMCONSUL HONG KONG
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 JAKARTA 1005

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

7. ALTHOUGH PUBLIC ATTENTION HAS BEEN ATTRACTED TO THE RECENT ACTIONS TAKEN BY OPSTIB AGAINST SENIOR OFFICIALS, OPERATIONS CONTINUE AT THE LOWER LEVELS AS WELL. OPSTIB OFFICIALS CAUGHT SEVEN OFFICIALS OF THE ROAD TRAFFIC SERVICE IN THE ACT OF COLLECTING ILLEGAL LEVIES FROM DRIVERS AT TANGERANG, WEST JAVA, LAST WEEK, AND ARE EXPECTED TO INVESTIGATE CHARGES THAT VILLAGE OFFICIALS IN THE FAMINE-STRICKEN KARAWANG AREA HAVE MISAPPROPRIATED PART OF THE FUNDS DONATED BY JAKARTA CITIZENS TO AID HUNGRY VILLAGERS.

8. COMMENT: PHASE II OF OPSTIB, ANNOUNCED BY ADMIRAL SUDOMO IN NOVEMBER, APPEARS TO HAVE RAISED THE SIGHTS OF THE CLEAN-UP OPERATION TO HIGHER-LEVEL CORRUPTION, AS
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PAGE 02 JAKART 01005 02 OF 02 231026Z

PROMISED BY SUDOMO. IN SPITE OF THE FACT THAT PHASE II GIVES THE MAJOR RESPONSIBILITY FOR ACTION TO DEPARTMENTAL INSPECTOR GENERALS, SUDOMO APPEARS TO BE CONTINUING TO PLAY AN ACTIVE ROLE IN THE CAMPAIGN, PERHAPS ON THE INSTRUCTION OF PRESIDENT SUHARTO, WHO REMAINS CONCERNED ABOUT THE PRE-ELECTION IMAGE OF HIS ADMINISTRATION. THE LATEST INVESTIGATIONS DO NOT FULLY MEET THE COMPLAINTS BY STUDENTS AND OTHER CRITICS OF THE SUHARTO REGIME THAT CORRUPTION MUST BE DEALT WITH AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL, BUT THEY REPRESENT A GOI WILLINGNESS TO TAKE ACTION AGAINST MALEFACTORS AT WHAT IS A REASONABLY HIGH LEVEL GIVEN THE TENSE PRE-PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION ATMOSPHERE. DIRECTOR GENERALS, MAYORS, REGENCY CHIEFS, AND POLICE GENERALS ARE PERSONS OF CONSIDERABLE POSITION AND INFLUENCE IN INDONESIAN SOCIETY, AND EVEN THE RELATIVEY MINOR PENALTIES OF RECALL OR HOUSE ARREST CONSTITUTE DISGRACE AND SEND A NOTE OF WARNING TO THEIR COLLEAGUES IN HIGH POSITIONS (TO SAY NOTHING OF POSSIBLE TRIAL AND IMPRISONMENT, WHICH IS UNLIKELY IN THESE CASES). FINALLY, THERE ARE SOME INDICATIONS THAT POLICE DEPARTMENT MAY BE HOUSECLEANED. NEWS-PAPERS REPORT FACT THAT AMBASSADOR TO BONN AWALUDDIN DJAMIN,

A HIGHLY RESPECTED POLICE GENERAL, WILL BE RECALLED TO JAKARTA
TO HEAD NATIONAL POLICE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOVERNMENT REFORM, CORRUPTION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978JAKART01005
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780033-0800
Format: TEL
From: JAKARTA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780135/aaaabcxm.tel
Line Count: 227
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: da0125e1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 JAKARTA 14962, 78 HONG KONG 817
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3732111
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: OPSTIB STARTS UP AGAIN
TAGS: PINT, EGEN, SOCI, ID
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/da0125e1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014